DEMOCRATIC

GERMAN REPORT

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BONN MINISTER WANTS "GREATER GERMANY"

Calls for Alsace, "Sudetenland"

A member of the West German Government, Transport Minister Hans Christoph Seebohm, has publicly called for the "return" to Germany of those European territories, such as French Alsace, which were part of the Kaisers' Empire before 1919, and at the same time claimed parts of Czechoslovakia seized by Hitler in 1938.

The minister, who is a member of the right-wing German Party, made the claims in a letter to a West Berlin publisher, who had published a propaganda map showing as part of Germany territories east of the Oder—Neisse frontier and East Prussia, territories allotted to Poland and the Soviet Union under the Potsdam Agreement.

For Minister Seebohm these provocative claims were far too small, and he wrote to the publisher:

"I am deeply disappointed that you have confined yourself to the territories left to Germany by the Versailles Treaty, although you have included Danzig. I was very much surprised that you omitted East Upper Silesia, Posen and West Prussia (the Polish Corridor), and particularly that you omitted the whole of the Sudetenland.

"We cannot ignore these lands, which were German, are German, and will become German once again, even if they did not form part of Germany between 1919 and 1938."

Political observers pointed out that the last sentence quoted was a clear claim to the entire territory of the pre-1919 German Empire, including Alsace and Lorraine in France. The "Sudetenland" claimed by the Minister, which forms the frontier area of Czechoslovakia, has never in history been part of Germany, except between 1938 and 1945 when it was under nazi occupation.

In further correspondence with the West Berlin publisher Minister Seebohm suggested that foreigners could be fooled by the omission of distinctly marked frontiers on the map. He wrote:

"I would not suggest publishing a map with the 1939 frontiers (showing Hitler's overrunning of Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Austria, ed.) but you could have chosen a form of map in which the exact frontiers were not shown.

"Foreigners know so little about geography that this would not have struck them."

Minister Seebohm, who has a provocative map of part of Czechoslovakia, marked as "German Territory" hanging in his office in Bonn, attained notoriety on December 4th 1951 when he publicly gave his recognition to the nazi swastika symbol by stating in a speech:

"I bow my head in respect before all symbols under which Germans have fought and died for their fatherland."

Another Bonn Minister, Dr Thomas Dehler, Minister of Justice, announced on November 20th that he felt:

"The time must come again when Prussia, in a reconstituted German Reich, once again fulfils its duty of maintaining western culture in central Europe."

A FRENCH VIEW

(From "L' Humanité", Paris)

"Who is there?"
"The European Army!"

72 PERCENT OF WEST GERMANS VOTE AGAINST ARMY

Nearly three West Germans out of four voted against serving in a new Wehrmacht in a public opinion poll conducted in October by the "Emnid" Public Opinion Research Centre in Bielefeld.

72 percent said "no" to the question:

"Would you think it right to serve as a soldier again, or that your son or your husband should serve?"

A further 13 percent gave no answer, and only 15 percent were in favour of serving in a new army. This shows a sharp decline since May this year, when 21 percent of those polled said that they were ready to become soldiers.

RESTITUTION — FOR WHOM?

From "Neues Deutschland", Organ of the Socialist Unity Party, Berlin, November 25th 1952

A few weeks ago the Adenauer Government concluded an agreement with the Government of Israel which was loudly announced as an alleged "Restitution Agreement". Even a cursory glance at the contents and the aims of the agreement, however, suffice to show that it has nothing to do with restitution for fascist crimes, and that it is not likely to do anything to strengthen the confidence of the peace-loving peoples, in the German people.

It is well known that the war criminals of the IG Farben Trust and the Rhineland iron and steel concerns made big profits out of the frightful crimes committed by the fascist rulers upon millions of Jews. They profited not only from building the concentration camps, the gas-chambers and crematoriums, and the production of Zyklon gas; they also enriched themselves from the possessions of their innocent victims, and, as the frightful discoveries at Maidanek showed, they even made profits out of the corpses.

The same imperialist criminals now want to profit for a second time from these fascist murders, this time disguised as repentant sinners, under the lying mask of "restitution".

The agreement concluded between Bonn and Israel proves to be a business agreement between big capitalists in West Germany and Israel. This manouevre forsees deliveries of West German goods valued at 3,000 million marks over a period of 12 years, and further payments amounting to 450 million marks to the Jewish World Organisation. These sums will not be used, however, to restore stolen property to the surviving victims of fascism; it will not be used to help them regain health and rebuild a steady livelihood.

Those who receive the West German "reparations" are the capitalists of Israel, who in this way intend to open up new sources of profit by developing new industries, particulary war industries. The Krupps, Flicks, and company, who have already drawn enormous profits from plundering and murdering millions of Jews, assure themselves in this way of stable markets and high profits for years to come. The costs will be borne by the working class of West Germany, who will be squeezed to produce the necessary taxes.

This dirty deal will be of profit not only to the big capitalists of Israel and West Germany, but above all to the U. S. imperialists, who are behind the whole deal. American monopoly capital is particularly interested in strengthening its own economic and strategic postion in the Near East, both with regards to the Arab States and Britain.

This policy endangers not only the peaceful co-existence of the peoples of the Near and Middle East, but also aims at the suppression of national liberation movements and the national independence of the peoples in this area. This makes it understandable that the (Bonn-Israel) agreement led to unrest and tension among these peoples, and was the starting point for renewed mistrust of the German people. This was particularly so since the same ruling circles in West Germany who prate so piously about restitution at the same time do all they can to revive the murderous forces of fascism.

The peace-loving peoples, led by the great Soviet people, waged a heroic war against Hitler Fascism in order to free the world for ever of fascist barbarism. In West Germany, however, the new American world aggressors helped monopoly capital and the junkers to retain power. On this soil anti-Semitism and racial hatred, chauvinism and a spirit of revenge, grow well. Fascist murder organisations, speeches of hate by men like General Ramcke, the desecration of Jewish graveyards in West Germany are only some of the examples of the planned revival of fascist forces.

In the German Democratic Republic the position is quite different. Here the roots of fascism and anti-Semitism have been destroyed, and the constitution provides the severest punishments for attempts to revive these movements.

In addition the German Democratic Republic has taken special measures to care for and support the victims of Fascism, including those persecuted for reasons of race. The legal steps taken have included priority in the provision of housing, furniture, jobs; very generous measures for the restoration and maintenance of the health of victims; liberal pensions for survivors and special scholarships for the children of the victims of fascism.

This shows that for years the German Democratic Republic has done everything possible to guarantee an assured and peaceful life to the victims of fascism, including those citizens professing the Jewish religion. In addition the German Democratic Republic not only guarantees to the Jewish religious communities the free exercise of their religion, but has granted very considerable subventions, used, for instance for the building of synagogues. Large sums of money were granted, for instance for the synagogue in Erfurt the restoration of which was completed on August 30th 1952, and for the rebuilding of property of the Berlin Jewish Community which had been destroyed by the nazis.

On September 30th 1952, Prime Minister Otto Grotewohl wrote to Julius Mayer, President of the Jewish Communities in the German Democratic Republic, stating:

> "The Government of the German Democratic Republic struggles together with all peaceable Germans for the maintenance and making secure of peace, and the re-establishment of a united, independent and peace-loving Germany. By these means the Government is taking steps to see to it that the crimes committed by fascism can never be repeated..."

The attitude adopted by the German Democratic Republic in the question of restitution is in accordance with the policy of friendship towards all peoples. Only such a policy can prevent such tensions as those which have arisen between the Arab peoples and the German people as a result of the "Restitution Agreement" concluded between Bonn and Israel.

The German Democratic Republic is ready to take up normal relations with all states, based upon mutual respect for national sovereignty, since only such a policy can serve the maintenance of peace.

The German Democratic Republic is ready to take up trade relations with any state on the basis of mutual equality. Such a policy accords with the interests of the German people and of other peoples, is the foundation for the peaceful co-existence of the peoples, and helps to ensure world peace.

97 Percent of Ruhr Miners Vote for Strike

Ninety-seven percent of the 400,000 miners of the Ruhr, in the British Zone, have voted for strike action in support of their demand for a seven-and-a-half hour day. At many branch meetings the union leadership was called upon to combine the demand for shorter hours with a call for 2 marks 50 pfennigs more pay per shift.

Ore Miners Answer Bishop

Workers from the ore mines of Saxony have indignantly denied allegations made by Bishop Otto Dibelius of Berlin that they were "slaves compelled to toil under appalling conditions".

"I volunteered to work in the bismuth mines in 1950, and signed on for six months" stated Karl Heinz Zeitschil. "When that term was up I signed on again, because I could support my family better on my good earnings, and because I felt that my work was doing more to maintain peace."

Werner Wetzel, of Pit 241, stated: "The Bishop's charges are pure imagination. I volunteered for a job here in 1949, and since then my standard of living has risen steadily."

Bishop Dibelius made his charges in an address to the British Industrial Christian Fellowship in London on November 19th.

German Delegates Elected for Vienna Peace Conference

There were more than 120 clergymen of all denominations among the 4000 delegates from East and West Germany who met in Berlin on November 28th to elect delegates to the great World Peace Congress to be held in Vienna this month.

In two days of discussions the delegates reported on the work for peace being done in both halves of partitioned Germany, and adopted a resolution calling for the rejection of the Bonn Treaty and the European Army Treaty, and urging peaceful discussions to reach German unity.

Among the 800 messages of greeting received by the conference was one from Bishop Wienken, Catholic Bishop of Meissen in East Germany, who stated:

"I will continue to devote my efforts to support the peace movement in its struggle, in a form fitting to the church."

New Schools for East Berlin

Twelve modern new schools to accomodate more than 600 pupils will be completed in Democratic Berlin in the last two months of this year and during 1953.

ADENAUER RUSHES RATIFICATION

Blackmail to "Encourage" Deputies

West German Chancellor Adenauer was making special efforts to force the ratification of the Bonn Treaties through the West German Parliament in the first week of December, against the opposition of the overwhelming majority of the German people.

On November 18th a majority of the members of the West German Parliament voted for a postponement of the debate on the treaties until the Federal Constitutional Court had ruled on their constitutionality, but Chancellor Adenauer then exerted every form of pressure on wavering members and managed to get the ratification debate placed on the agenda for December 3rd.

A report from Bonn stated that in order to obtain a majority for the ratification, Adenauer intended to apply every form of pressure, up to and including blackmail, to make members of the government coalition vote for the treaties even against their consciences. The Bonn Secret Police were reported to have amassed information about some of the waverers which would make them "amenable to pressure".

The Social Democrats had announced their opposition to the treaties, but had urged their supporters to "wait for the decision of the Federal Constitutional Court", and not to take any other form of action. The main basis of the appeal made by the Social Democrats to the Constitutional Court was that the raising of a new army, implicit in the Bonn Treaties, could not be reconciled with the wording of the Bonn Constitution.

Communist spokesmen in West Germany had appealed for united action against the treaties by all sections of the working class and the peace movement. They recalled that in July 1932, when Von Papen had deposed the Social Democratic Government of the Province of Prussia, the Social Democratic leadership had also contented itself with appealing to the Constitutional Court, and had thus opened the door to Hitler.

Tommies Choose Peace . . .

Three soldiers of the Welsh Guards, serving in West Berlin, have been granted asylum in the German Democratic Republic. Here is the letter which they addressed to the Government in this connection:

"We, the undersigned soldiers of the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards, serving in West Berlin, have decided to make an application to the Government of the German Democratic Republic to stay, live and work under the said Government.

"Although we are patriots of Great Britain, we wish to remain in the German Democratic Republic, the reasons being that Great Britain is the aircraft carrier of the U. S. capitalists and war-mongers, and we soldiers do not want war but just want peace like all British people.

John D. Smith

Francis R. Rumph

David J. James"

. . . and G. I.'s Join Them

A few days later an American soldier also asked for asylum. His application stated:

"I, Carl Thomas Blake, having been a soldier of Company L, 6th Infantry Regiment located in the West Sector of Berlin have come to the Democratic Sector of Berlin to avoid military service in the U. S. Army.

"I, Carl Thomas Blake am wholeheartedly against the U. S. imperialist government policy and their preparing for a new world war, and for this purpose building air bases and sending troops to such countries as England, France, Italy, Korea and so on.

"I don't want to risk my life for American businessmen's profits and I don't want to accept the orders or do the tasks given to me by U. S. officers.

"I, Carl T. Blake am leaving forever the U. S. Army and military services and joining the ranks of the German Democratic Republic in order to begin a new life. I ask the Goverment of the German Democratic Republic to help in this and give me political refuge, a new home and a job."

As GERMAN REPORT went to press came the news that a second American soldier, George Smith, had also asked for asylum.

STATISTICS PROVE EAST GERMANS LIVE BETTER

Walter Ulbricht, Deputy Prime Minister, Shows Successes, Exposes Weaknesses

The average East German eats considerably better than the West German today, and his standard is rising rapidly, despite certain weaknesses in the supply system, Deputy Prime Minister Walter Ulbricht told a full meeting of the Central Comittee of the Socialist Unity Party on November 20th.

Walter Ulbricht, who is General Secretary of the Socialist Unity Party, gave statistics to show that more fish, fat, and sugar were consumed in East Germany per head than in West Germany, and that meat consumption was about the same in both parts of the country. Even more important was the continuous upward trend shown by these figures for East German annual consumption per head:

	1951	1952
Meat	75 lbs	83 lbs
Fish	14 lbs	19 lbs
Fat	48 lbs	55 lbs
Sugar	49 lbs	65 lbs

The Deputy Prime Minister, however, sharply criticised the work of the Supply Ministry. Supplies of food stuffs, clothing and other consumer goods could have been considerably better if the supply organisations had functioned properly.

"When something goes wrong with the supply machinery, then some people are very quick to ask 'Do you call that Socialism?'," Walter Ulbricht stated. "These people forget that we have only just begun to organise the central trade organisations, cooperative trade, and Socialist trade.

"In the food wholesale business capitalist elements still play a large role, and the training of honest men, filled with a desire to build Socialism has not yet attained such impetus that it has been possible to fill all key positions in our trading organisations with such persons. I need only refer to the fact that the Liberal Democrat Handke, who was a department head in the Supply Ministry, allowed over 80,000 lbs of fat to go bad, and then fled to the west when his crime was discovered."

Here are other main points from Walter Ulbricht's speech:

The Economic Problems of Socialism

"The creation of the foundations of Socialism in the German Democratic Republic means that our task at present is:

1. To strengthen Socialist industry, that is to say to reconstruct existing and to build new Socialist factories; to develop heavy industry and engineering in accordance with the laws of increasing reproduction in the Socialist economy; to increase labour productivity and reduce costs.

2. To create and to strength production cooperatives in the countryside; to increase agricultural production by means of mechanisation and the most progressive agricultural methods, in order to make the production cooperatives superior to the private holdings; to apply strictly the laws of the German Democratic Republic against big farmers who offend against the economic laws.

3. To develop the state trading organisations, the cooperatives and the peasant trading organisations; to fight speculators who interfere with the people's supplies; to concentrate wholesale trade in the hands of the state.

"In the Republic today we have, apart from nationally owned industry, which accounts for 80 percent of the industrial production, also capitalist industry. In the capitalist sector there is private ownership of the means of production, and there is exploitation of labour. Owing to the economic policy of the government of the Republic this contradiction between the Socialist and the capitalist Sector can only play a limited role,

"It is, however, an obvious fact and an inevitable occurence that continuous interference should proceed from the sphere of capitalist production.

"There can be no doubt that in connection with the supply difficulties which appeared a short while ago the representatives of the superseded capitalist forces attempted to exploit the economic laws of capitalism in their struggle against the creation of the foundations of Socialism. There can be no doubt that the capitalist forces will increase their efforts in this struggle.

To Build Socialism in East Germany

"The decisions taken by the 19th Party Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union show us how to build Socialism successfully in the German Democratic Republic.

"The economic law laying down the priority of the production of the means of production during the construction of Socialism means that we must concentrate our main efforts in reconstructing the steel industry and heavy engineering as a basis for increasing the production of power, for the development of other industries, and particularly for the mechanisation of agriculture.

Learning from Soviet Science

"That is why it is false when people demand that more should be invested in the consumer goods industry, or in building, without regard for the fact that the only way to achieve a steady increase in production and the attainment of the highest technical efficiency is by giving priority to the production of the means of production.

"There can be no doubt that we have had important successes in the fulfillment of the economic plan. Now we must concentrate, however, on the exact fulfillment of the plan in all its branches. In the first nine months of 1952, out of 140 types of production which were of top-rank economic importance, 88 did not reach the figures planned."

Walter Ulbricht then criticised some branches of industry which had submitted requests for raw materials out of all proportion to their real requirements, and continued:

"Such requests could completely disorganise our economy, and convert our plan into a collection of fantastic figures having nothing in common with reality. Such attempts to collect reserves at the cost of the state are crimes punishable by law.

"The full productive capacity is not yet attained in our plants, and the full technical use of the plant available here is still at a low level. According to the plan our Siemens Martin furnaces should produce 4.1 tons of steel per square metre daily.

"The Groeditz Foundry produced on an average only 3.97 tons per square metre in the first nine months of this year. In the Soviet Union the Siemens Martin furnaces produce 6.19 tons per cubic metre, however.

What We Can Do

"There are many people who believe that the Government of the German Democratic Republic can do everything. The government can, in fact, use the objective laws in the service of the community, but it cannot, for instance, increase power production to the degree necessary until the production of the steel and engineering industry have been considerably increased.

"Or let us turn to the question of prices. Some workers wonder why

prices in the state shops are not reduced even more rapidly. The reduction of these prices is of course only possible when production is increased more rapidly, and when the production costs are reduced more rapidly.

"The increase in production has led to a steady improvement in the standard of living of the population. In 1952 the turn-over of goods will amount to about 25,000 million marks which is 3,600 million marks or 16.8 percent higher than last year."

The Deputy Prime Minister then gave the figures for food consumption quoted at the beginning of this article.

Learn Soviet Lessons

"The most urgent task in the establishment of the foundations of Socialism in the German Democratic Republic is to learn how to use the lessons taught by the progressive science and technical research in the Soviet Union.

"We must be very thankful for what the Soviet Union has done for us. The Soviet Union has placed at our disposal the most modern mining machinery, modern building machinery, and the newest agricultural machines. Stakhonov workers have visited us and shown our engineers, miners and building workers how to use the most modern working methods and the latest technical advances.

"Soviet engineers have given us their advice in building the "Ost" Iron Foundry and in reconstructing our steel mills and mines.

Conceited "Experts"

"Despite all this, some of our experts and scientists are so conceited that they are now marking time. Some experts have their eyes fixed on the west, and do not realise that in the main fields Soviet science and Soviet technical advances have outstripped the developments in the capitalist countries. The self-satisfaction of some of our experts, their point of view "We know everything" is the main obstacle to further developments.

"We must learn and we must use the lessons of Soviet science in the fields of social sciences, economics, physics, biology, technical and medical science.

"At our request the Soviet Government has placed a number of Soviet experts at our disposal who will help us to reconstruct certain plants in accordance with the latest and most progressive technical developments. It has been ascertained, for instance, that the capacity laid down for the Doehlen Special Steel Works was far too low, and that with the aggregates planned it would be possible to produce 500,000 tons of steel ammally above the original target figure. The rolling mill in another work has been found to be able to produce twice as much steel as the engineers in the Central Construction Bureau had estimated.

"The reason for such underestimation of capacities lies in the neglect of the lessons taught by progressive developments. Our old and our young engineers must learn very thoroughly so that such things do not happen in future.

Enemy Activities Stepped Up

"The successes already achieved in Socialist construction in the German Democratic Republic have had the result that our enemies have opened a campaign of slander against us even more fierce than that conducted against the Soviet Union when the Soviet Union was carrying out its first Five Year Plan.

"The American agencies have given instructions that the enemies of the German Democratic Republic should try to worm their way into influential positions, in order to organise from these positions the sabotaging of deliveries and the interference with the flow of trade.

"There can be no doubt that there are enemies in the trade organisations, in the central foodstuffs organisation, who systematically interfere with the supply of the population.

"The representatives of the hostile agencies and the bankrupt capitalist class call upon their friends in our judicial system to impose light sentences and to release the terrorists.

"In the mining industry acts of sabotage have been carried out which endangered the lives of miners, and which were aimed at reducing coal production.

"Reactionary big farmers carry out the instructions given by West Berlin agencies and organise attacks on members of the production cooperatives. We shall take strict measures against such elements, but there will be no interference with those large farmers who fulfil their responsibilities towards the state."

Walter Ulbricht concluded his speech with an analysis of the steps which must be taken for the defence of the German Democratic Republic.

Defence Forces

"The creation of armed forces is in no way a contradiction of our fight for peace, since if the German Democratic Republic was defenceless this would simply be an encouragement to the American and West German aggressors to indulge in a war provocation.

"Our enemies must be made to realise that the working people of the German Democratic Republic will answer every attempt to disturb their peaceful work with a devastating counter-blow. In a state in which the working people rule, the People's Police serve the defence of peaceful work, and the maintenance of peace."

1953 IS "KARL MARX YEAR"

The year 1953 will be celebrated as "Karl Marx Year" in Germany, the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party announced. The main task during the year will be to make the whole German people aware of the world-wide importance of Karl Marx, the greatest German in history, and to inspire the working people with the spirit of unremitting struggle for a Socialist society.

The year will be marked by special exhibitions giving a picture of Marx's life and work. Any reader of GERMAN REPORT who has documents, pictures or old newspapers which could be used to illustrate the long period during which Marx, and his friend and collaborator Engels, spent in England could help to make these exhibitions a success. Particularly sought are pictures and documents relating to the British working class movement between 1840 and 1890, files of newspapers of all political complexions during the same period, and copies of the books which Karl Marx used in his work on scientific Socialism, such as government blue books etc.

If you have any such material, which would most valuable both for the Karl Marx exhibitions and for later use in the "German History Museum" please write to GERMAN REPORT in the first place, and we shall pass your offer on to the right quarters.

PRODUCTION CO-OPS POPULAR

Production cooperatives, in which farmers pool their fields to work them more effectively, have been formed in 11 percent of all villages in the German Democratic Republic, it was announced in Berlin.

The formation of these cooperatives, which are entirely voluntary, began in summer this year. The Government has given great help to their development by granting tax exemptions, priority in the use of tractors, and other measures.

Readers' Letters

"I am of course very interested to hear how things are going in Europe. The German Democratic Republic is of special interest to all of us, who partake in your joy that the people there are no longer the blind tools of Nazism and that they are in the foremost ranks of fighters for peace and Socialism.

"Recently I just got the last letter which Thaelmann wrote from Nazi prison. It was a moving letter. I thought if only we could have worked a little harder when there was time we could have saved him.

"Unfortunately at that time many did not know the full meaning of fascism. Now the whole world should know it, and while we in USA are not under fascism, we must fight very hard to stop it.

"P. S. On November 5th my new trial starts under Smith Act. I am serving 20 year sentence now and could get five years more."

Steve Nelson, 249
c/o Allegheny County Jail
Ross St.
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, U. S. A.

(Steve Nelson, former officer of the International Brigade in Spain, was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment in July 1952 on a frame-up charge of "sedition". He is at present appearing on trial for a second time, under the Smith Act, main evidence being his part in peace activities.)

WEST BERLIN SMUGGLERS HIT

No More Cheap Goods from East

The East Berlin authorities on November 27th banned all sales of foodstuffs and industrial products, in a move to stop smuggling and speculation at the expense of the East German population.

In future goods will be sold over the counter in East Berlin only to persons in possession of East German identity cards, and to West Berliners who work in the eastern part of the city.

Since 1948 different currencies have been in use in East and West Berlin, and with increasing prosperity in East Berlin, accompanied by sinking prices, more and more West Berliners have been crossing the border-line and doing their shopping in the East Sector.

The flood of West Berlin buyers has been increasing for many months, and there has been evidence that the West Berlin authorities, with American support, were organising special "buying teams" which flooded the East Sector, buying up goods and creating artificial shortages. In the first nine months of this year, for instance, 14 times as much sugar was purchased in East Berlin as in the whole of 1951.

The East Berlin authorities were reluctant to do anything which might split the city further, but the necessity to safeguard the regular supply of foodstuffs to the population of the Democratic Sector finally made action unavoidable.

All sections of the East Berlin population warmly greeted the move, which will do much to abolish queueing and ensure fair distribution.

WEST GERMAN ARMS INVENTORS BUSY

West German inventors are filing hundreds of applications for patents on new murderous weapons, the West German Patent Office proudly announced. The great Daimler-Benz engineering firm has asked for patents on a new type of fighter plane, on light tanks, on bomber equipment, and on special methods of treating armour plating.

Other patents have been applied for, both by firms and by individuals, for new poison gases, fuses, grenades, and bombs.

CRIMINAL SCIENTIST

Chief of a new "Altitude Flight Research Station" established by the West German Government in Frankfurt, is Dr Siegfried Ruff, who held a similar position under Hitler and was responsible for the death in agony of thousands of concentration camp inmates whom he used an "guinea pigs" in his low pressure experiments.

Pensions for War Criminals

The West German Government pays a special pension of 10 marks monthly to the 55 nazi war criminals confined in Dutch prisons.

SS Man sent bomb to Adenauer?

SS Sturmbannfuehrer Dollmann, formerly a member of Himmler's personal staff, is the man who organised abortive plots to send bombs to Adenauer and other West German leaders, and then circulated stories that the bombs were sent by "Jewish terroristts", in order to stimulate anti-Semitic feeling, according to the West German newspaper "Das Andere Deutschland".

SS man Dollmann, who lives in Seville, Spain, finances this and other neo-fascist activity in West Germany with the help of property confiscated from Jews during the war, which he now controls, the paper stated.

The Army Without Soldiers

Thirty thousand voluteers for the new West German Wehrmacht have already submitted their names, but there is not a single former rank and file soldiers amongst them, the American United Press reported from Bonn on November 1st. All the volunteers are former officers and sergeants.

Leipzig Fair Final Figures

East Germany will export goods valued at 457 millions rubles as a result of the Leipzig Fair, final figures show. 55 percent of the goods exported will go to the countries of the Socialist economic system, 18 percent to West Germany, and 27 percent to West Europe and overseas.

Democratic GERMAN REPORT

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NEWS FROM NAZILAND

'Hitler Elite Troop' Marches Again

There are at least 30 neo-fascist groups in West Berlin, including the "League of Members of the Adolf Hitler Elite Troop", according to the official United States German-language newspaper "Neue Zeitung" on November 23rd.

Other fascist groups named by the American newspaper include a "charitable" organisation known as "Helping Hands", which helps war criminals who are still imprisoned, and which enjoys the patronage of Frau Gertrud Scholz-Klink, once notorious as head of the nazi women's guild; a nameless group round the former Storm Troop officer Stennes, who was involved in a number of political murders after the first world war; and a pro-nazi youth organisation calling itself "Junge Adler" (Young Eagle) with headquarters in the American sector.

The American newspaper also reports that a West German former Hitler Youth officer named Priester took part in an international meeting of fascist groups in Sweden earlier this year, and that he donated a stamp collection worth about a million dollars belonging to the nazi murder chief Kaltenbrunner, to an international fascist organisation calling itself the "Natinform". Shortly after his visit "mountains of anti-semitic propaganda publications were received by Berlin neo-nazis", the newspaper stated.

"Nazi Martyrs"

The "Fighting Group of the Survivors", a West German group of nazis, is doing a flourishing business selling postcards decorated with portraits of the leading nazi war criminals hung at Nuremberg. "Profits from the sale of these cards will be devoted to the erection of a memorial to these martyrs, who died that Germany might live" states a note on each card.

✠

The anti-semitic and pornographic nazi newspaper "Der Stuermer" has begun to appear again illegally in West Germany. The paper is published monthly under a false address, but the editorial offices are believed to be located in Lower Saxony (British Zone).

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Former nazi general Kurt Student complained on November 15th that former nazi soldiers did not receive worthy treatment. Speaking to a rally of nazi parachute troopers he stated: "Instead of being praised by all for their wonderful achievements, they are held to be responsible for everthing."

✠

"The German people must return to the good old Germanic soldierly virtues like self-discipline and calmness" stated August Martin Euler, leading Free Democrat and member of the West German Parliament, addressing a meeting of former members of the nazi Wehrmacht in Frankfurt, American Zone.

Heil!

At a public meeting in Celle, British Zone, Hanns Piper, chairman of the local branch of neo-fascist "Federation of German Youth" declared proudly: "I still have a portrait of the Fuehrer hanging in my room."

ATTLEE AND TRUMAN SIGNED THIS

"The purposes of the occupation of Germany ... are:

I The complete disarmament and demilitarisation of Germany ... To these ends all German land, naval, and air forces, the S. S., S. A., S. D., and Gestapo, with all their organisations, staffs and institutions, including the General Staff, the Officers' Corps, Reserve Corps, military schools, war veterans' organisations, and all other military and quasi-military organisations, together with all clubs and associations which serve to keep alive the military tradition in Germany, shall be completely and finally abolished in such manner as permanently to prevent the revival or reorganisation of German militarism and Nazism ...

III To destroy the National Socialist Party and its affiliated and supervised organisations; to dissolve all Nazi institutions; to ensure that they are not revived in any form; and to prevent all Nazi and militarist activity or propaganda."

Potsdam Agreement, signed in Berlin August 2nd 1945

TOO BAD WE WEREN'T WARCRIMINALS WE WOULD HAVE BEEN OUT LONG AGO!

(From "Vet's Voice", Forest Hills, U.S.A.

HITLER YOUTH LEADER WANTS ANOTHER TRY

West German police have been forced to arrest seven former leading nazi party members who had formed an underground organisation calling itself "Bewegung Reich" (Reich Movement) which aimed at seizing power in West Germany. The organisation was financed by several leading industrialists.

The persons arrested include Hartmann Lauterbacher, former Chief of Staff of the Hitler Youth, who was living under the alias of Schmitz; and Dr Otto Bucke, former Deputy Gauleiter of Westphalia.

The movement, members of which were threatened with death if they revealed its secrets, was led from the Argentine by Luftwaffe Colonel Rudel, who visited West Germany early this year for a secret conference held at Berchtesgaden, site of Hitler's mountain hideout.

Informed circles in West Germany expect that the arrested men will soon be released, since they were only preparing the forcible overthrow of the government, and were not doing something "criminal" like disributing peace propaganda.

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Nearly 80 former active nazis were elected to town and county councils in Lower Saxony, British Zone, at the beginning of November, the Lower Saxon government announced.

The successful nazi candidates included Wilhelm Schepmann, last chief of staff of the Storm Troops, S. S. Hauptsturmfuehrer Hans Wenke, nazi district leader Heinrich Meyer, Storm Troop officer Karl Lipka, and nazi Gau speaker Ingomar Verhouz.

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

The Christmas atmosphere had not got a proper grip on Berlin when I wrote this column, at the very beginning of December, but a short trip through the shopping centres had shown that it would be the brightest and happiest holiday season since the end of the war for everybody in East Germany.

Toy shops were already thronged with customers making sure of getting just what their children wanted. I watched the customers in a toy bazaar fixed up specially by the State Trading Organisation just outside the Friedrich Strasse Station, right in the busiest part of East Berlin, and it was clear that dolls were going to be Christmas hit No. 1. Best sellers were Negro dolls of all sizes, dolls in the colourful national costumes of Poland, France and other parts of the world, and doll's furniture.

Fire Engines

For boys, fire-engines seemed to be the right thing. They ranged from simple little wooden toys an inch or two long, up to giant fully-mechanised versions with immense ladders which will stretch right up to the ceiling in most living rooms. Electric trains are available too, and the displays draw the same sort of crowds of awe-struck small boys which they draw in any part of the world.

For older children there is a full range of sportsgoods, ranging from table tennis sets to full-sized footballs, and for children of all ages, and adults too, there are the most exciting books.

The children's books in East Germany have already reached an astonishingly high level, and sales are so large that the publishers have the greatest trouble in keeping up. There are translations from all over the world, and particularly popular is a book with 20 brightly coloured Chinese woodcuts, showing the life of a Chinese boy and girl, with good catchy verse explaining what the pictures are all about.

Fine Books

For grown-ups the book market has plenty to offer too, and this year, for the first time, the binding and paper quality used for books is fully back to pre-war standards. My bookseller told me that best sellers this Christmas are Theodore Dreiser's "American Tragedy"; a new edition of Mark Twain's "Yankee at King Arthur's Court"; Sterne's "Tristram Shandy", and of course the works of such German authors as Thomas Mann, Lion Feuchtwanger and Arnold Zweig.

Incidentally, total book production in the German Democratic Republic will top 80 million this year — well over five books for every man, woman and child. A friend from West Germany who visited me last week pointed to the difference there. Most publishing houses are on the verge of bankruptcy, books cost an average of twice as much as they do in East Germany, and bestselling titles include "76 Years of My Life" by Hitler's financier Hjalmar Schacht, "Infantry on the Eastern Front" by General Hossbach, and more of the same category.

"JOIN THE ARMY, AND DIE TO MUSIC"

"The Blank Office (the Bonn War Ministry, ed.) has asked Professor Wilhelm Ehmann, head of the Provincial Church School of Music, to work out a memorandum on the composition of the future German military bands.

"Professor Ehmann is an expert in brass bands, and was adviser to the German Navy on musical questions during the last war.

"He states that church music was much influenced in its development by military music, and his new job could thus be regarded as a sort of 'musical restitution'."

"Rheinische Post", West Germany, November 1st 1952

As Good As Nylons

Apart from books, adults were buying large quantities of clothing. Bright scarves were abundant, pullovers, perfumes, and perlon stockings, which are just as wear-resistant as nylon.

Nobody here was paying any attention to the western press stories of "starvation in East Germany", since they were too busy buying food and drink for the festival, which is probably the sign for more heavy eating in Germany than in any other country.

Train-load on train-load of geese, turkeys and chickens have already arrived from Poland and Hungary and there is no fear of a shortage, an official in the food import department assured me when I queried him on the situation. The same countries are delivering huge quantities of carp, traditional dish on Christmas Eve.

Lots of Nuts

One of the things which has been in short supply in East Germany has been tropical and semi-tropical fruit, but big new export contracts have ensured that plenty of almonds, sultanas, figs, oranges and lemons will be in the shops in good time for the holidays.

One of the minor idiotic results of the partitioning of Germany and the American-inspired ban on East-West trade is the fact that while West German wine producers find no market for their products, East Germans can get no Rhine wine. Wines from East Europe are filling the gap, however, and big consignments of Hungary's famous Tokay wine and other excellent wines from Rumania and Bulgaria are in all the shop windows.

Warning

Now here is a warning. In previous years the British and American press have always chosen the Christmas period as an opportunity for launching some particularly absurd lies about East Germany. So do not be surprised if you read in the millionaire press in the next few days that Christmas has been banned, that shops have been forbidden to sell Christmas trees, that Christmas trees may not be decorated with the traditional angels, and, of course, that the whole population is starving. These are all good old weather-beaten lies, so my colleagues of the western press may be relied upon to drag them out, dust them off, and use them again.

West German Conversation

"Where is the de-nazification office, please?"

"De-nazification office? That was closed down long ago. You should have gone there in 1945 or 1946."

"But I hadn't even joined the nazi party then."

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